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The *UNIVERSAL SPECTATOR*, AND WEEKLY JOURNAL.

By **Henry Stonecastle**, of *Lincoln's-Inn, Esq;*

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From my CHAMBERS.

Shall entertain my Readers with the Substance of a Converſation, which I the other Day heard, and which I minuted down as ſoon as I return'd to my Chambers. If I am not miſtaken there is ſome Novelty in treating of the Subject and Good Senſe with Humour riſing from a Subject of no great Importance. I ſhall chuſe to give it rather in a Dialogue, than by that tireſome Redundancy of Narration of, Then he ſaid—Then ſhe reply'd;——a Manner which deſtroys the Voice of a Story where frequent Anſwers are to be given.——There needs no farther Preface than for the Reader to ſuppoſe he is hearing the Diſcourſe of a Company ſitting round a Gentleman's Parlour Fire:—I have not drawn up a *Dramatis Perſonæ*, thinking it ſufficient to have nam'd the Characters as they ſpoke in the Courſe of Converſation.

An EVENING'S CONVERSATION PIECE.

Mrs. *Townly*.

ARE you ſerious, Uncle, when you thus rail againſt our Town-way of Living? If you are, you will give ſuch a Deſcription of *London*, that none of your Country Neighbours will dare to ſet Foot in it.

Mr. *Freehold*. 'Tis no Matter, Niece, whether they do or no: I am ſure I wiſh I was down at *Bumper-Hall* again; nothing but getting my New-Purchaſe Deeds executed ſhould have kept me.

Mrs. *Townly*. But, pray Sir, tho' you blame our Manner of Life in general, you have not made any particular Exceptions.

Mr. *Freehold*. Particular Exceptions!——It is all Exception.——You live, indeed, in Noiſe, and Hurry, and Nonſenſe; in a *Babel* of Confuſion: But you have no Notions of the Pleaſure of Living.

Mrs. *Townly*. That you confine to your Country Sports.

Mr. *Freehold*. And you, Madam, to your Operas, Oratorios, Maſquerades, and the Duce and all. But again, I ſay, that in this Town you breathe, ye move ye ſtare, ye exiſt, but ye don't live.

Mr. *Smart*. Not live *in London!*——Why, Sir, we are Connoiſſeurs in all the Modes of Living.——We have divided Life into Diſtinctions: There's your *High Life* and *Low Life*; hence we ſay, ſuch a one knows *Life*, or ſuch a one is a *Low-liv'd Creature*——That Sir *Epicure Mammon* knows what is *Good Living*, and in the City they *live well*, and at the Court-End of the Town they *live way*.

Mr. *Freehold*. That is, in ſhort, that Life conſiſts in your Luxury or gaſt Penury; that your *Knowers* of *Life* are Extravagants or Debauchees, that Good Living is Luxury, living well is Gluttony, and living away Extravagance.—I am not ſo mere a *Country Put*, Coſin *Smart*, as not to know the *Diſtinctions*—as you call them.

Mrs. *Townly*. I ſhould be glad, Sir, to hear your Sentiments on Living, or what Scheme you would lay down for it.

Mr. *Freehold*. Scheme!—What need of any Scheme. I would live as our Forefathers liv'd; like a good Man and true; like an *Engliſhman*; and as there are proper Times and Seaſons to diſtinguiſh that Character, I would never omit them.

Mr. *Smart*. You mean politically.

Mr. *Freehold*. No, Sir, I don't mean politically; but according to the common Œconomy of Life.——For Inſtance; Would any of our Anceſtors of a Century ago believe theſe were *Chriſtmas* Holidays?——Among People of any Faſhion it would not be known from any other Time, but by their Tradeſmen bringing in their Bills; and at Court by preſenting Frankincence and Myrrh, and playing for the Groom-Porter. Your low-liv'd Creatures, as Mr. *Smart* calls them, keep up ſome faint Reſemblance of the antient Uſages of this Seaſon: There are among them little mutual Entertainments, the Intercourſe of Relations and Friends reviv'd and preſerv'd: A mimic Scene of Hoſpitality is preſented, and good Cheer and hearty Mirth beſpeak the Characters of natural *Engliſhmen*.

Mrs. *Townly*. I muſt acknowledge that here in Town the Keeping of *Chriſtmas*, as it is call'd, is another Thing, not only from what it was in *Elizabeth's* Time, but two or three Score Years ago. But then, Sir, conſider the Modes of Living are chang'd, Cuſtoms vary; Hoſpitality in *London*, according to the Idea you have of it in the Country, would be ridiculous, and inſtead of that rude Mirth which was the Delight of our Forefathers, by capering about an o'd Hall, and chaunting out lamentable Ditties, we can go and ſee Signiors and Signioras dance, and hear the Quavers of the *Italian Monticelli*, or the Beauty of natural Singing by Mr. *Beard* and Mr. *Lowe*.

Mr. *Freehold*. Yes, yes; if you call this Mirth or Diverſion, you have enough of it; but it don't diſtinguiſh *Chriſtmas*——this is being jolly the whole Year round; but let me tell you, Mrs. *Townly*, it was far better, and would be ſo again, if now, as formerly, ——*Chriſtmas* came but once a Year.

Mrs. *Townly*. Indeed, Sir, you have very antiquated Notions; they may do very well at your Manor-Houſe in *Staffordſhire*, at a Mumming in your old Hall among your Tenants and their awkard Daughters; but your Country Gentlemen, for the Generality, preſer the *Chriſtmas* Diverſions of *London* to thoſe of the Country.

Mr. *Freehold*. Degeneracy, Corruption, ſervile Dependences, and Expectations on Miniſters and Courts, have aboliſh'd that Spirit of old *Engliſh* Hoſpitality from our Gentry, for which their Anceſtors have been ſo diſtinguiſh'd. As for my Part, I am of the unfaſhionable Number of thoſe who ſtill love, and, according to my Rank, keep it up. Nor have I any Pleaſure greater than to ſee all my Tenants cheatfully at my Table drink my Health as their Friend, not eſteeming me a *Racker* or *Oppreſſor*: I had rather hear *Hodge's* or *Suſan's* Ditties than your quavering—— *Ceſulli's*——what d'ye call them——nor can all your *Signiors* and *Signioras* capering equal a Hornpipe or Cheſhire-Rounds by the Miller's Son and Farmer *Ploughſhare's* Daughter *Mary*——Well, young Spark, I ſee you ſmile; but I hope, after your Flight of Gaiety is over, and you come to reſide in *Cheſhire*, you'll be of my Opinion.

Mr. *Smart*. I don't know what Time may produce; it does Wonders. But, pray Sir, by your Leave, give me leave to object to ſome Maxims you have advanc'd. You ſay that our Gentry in Town, through Degeneracy, keep not up the hoſpitable Spirit of their Forefathers. By hoſpitable Spirit I ſuppoſe you mean giving mutual Entertainments, and having Feaſtings at this Seaſon.——Now, Sir, all our News-Papers proclaim the contrary: One Day the World is inform'd, My Lord ——— gave a grand Entertainment to my Lord ———, the Earl of ———, and the Duke of ———; at which were preſent, the Miniſters of State, the Foreign Miniſters, and Mr. ———, and Mr. ———, *&c. &c.* The next it is proclaim'd again, that there was an elegant Entertainment at Mr. ———'s, with, *&c. &c.* One is at *Whitehall*——another at the *Temple*; and it is ſaid the whole *Chriſtmas* will be ſpent in theſe ſumptuous Interviews and Intercourſes.

Mr. *Freehold*. Alack! alack! theſe are Inſtances of the luxurious Degeneracy of the Age.——Theſe are Political Cabals, rather than Aſſemblies of Friendſhip; where Deſign and Artifice are conceal'd under the Appearance of Openneſs and Generoſity. It is true, there is Pomp, but no Sincerity; Laughter, but no Mirth: It is a Farce beneath a Country Mumming.——But would not half theſe Expences had a better Effect, been of more Service to their Country, to have been on their own Eſtates among their plain but honeſt Tenants? Would they not pay their Taxes more chearfully when they heard their Landlord tell them it was for the Good of their King and Country.——Inſtead of this, for the Epicurianiſm of a ſingle Night, their Tenants are often harraſs'd, and look'd on only as the Drudges for their Luxury.

Mrs. *Townly*. You have a very indifferent Opinion of what we call the Polite World.

Mr. *Freehold*.——Polite! Ha, ha, ha!——There's the whole our:——That curſed Politeneſs has undone us.——The Home-ſpun Heartineſs of our Forefathers was an other-gueſs Kind of Politeneſs to what the Mode is now.——Our preſent fine Gentlemen are mighty complaiſant and elegant; but they neither know good Manners nor good Nature: Benevolence of Heart is loſt in an artificial Suppleneſs, and Friendſhip is nothing but Leagues of Vice or Folly.——At thoſe courtly Entertainments, Mr. *Smart* mention'd, how ſmall a Share has Friendſhip or Affection, but how great a one of pernicious Refinements and ſolemn Impoſtures.

Mrs. *Townly*. Your Obſervations are too juſt, in general, on our Town Elegance; but has not the Evil ſpread itſelf into the Country?

Mr. *Freehold*. Yes, the Malady.

Ex hoc Fonte derivata,
In Patriam Populumq; fluxit.

From this Fountain the Stream of Luxury has flow'd through Country and People: Your *London* Genteelneſſes of Expence are imported among theſe Innovations, and deſtroy the old Habits of *Britiſh* Virtue: With the Loſs of that enſues the Loſs of Liberty; for if we ſo diligently refine our Manners, that Simplicity and Probity are no more, we ſhall be too complaiſant not to ſubmit to the Yoke of Slavery, if great Men aſk it, and politely kiſs the Hand that put it on.

Mrs. *Townly*. But would you not have Tenants and Dependants pay Civilities to their Superiors in the Rank of Life?

Mr. *Freehold*. Such Civilities as are proper for a free People, ſuch as ſhew neither Arrogant or Abject; ſuch as an honeſt Man may pay with Credit, and a Man of Senſe receive without a Bluſh.——I am pleas'd with a Story I have heard on this Subject, though it has ſlip'd my Memory.

Mrs. *Townly*. Oh pray, Sir, recollect. Let us have the Story.——I know it muſt be a good one.——Now I ſee you have recollected it.

Mr. *Freehold*. A Courtier invited one of his Tenants to dine with him, on his bringing up his Rent. happen'd to be preſent, and was highly pleas'd, when the 'Squire gave his humble Service to him in Bumper, to hear the elegant Farmer reply with this juſt Reprimand, ——— *Your Love is ſufficient.*

Mrs. *Townly*. Though your Obſervations are in a great degree juſt, they will not make many Proſelytes.

Mr. *Freehold*. I believe ſo, therefore will drop the Argument, with this Wiſh, *That the elegant Improvements of this Age do not enſlave the mind.*

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Conſtantinople, Dec. 11. It is generally underſtood here, that the Shah intends only to amuſe us, and that his real Deſign is to conquer and ſecure a great Part of the Country between the Caſpian and Euxine Seas, which will enable him to open a Trade directly with Europe, as ſoon as he is able to raiſe a Maritime Force. In the mean time he labours to amuſe us with Propoſitions of a very different Nature, particularly with Demands in favour of the Perſian Pilgrims to Mecca, in order to make himſelf appear a zealous Mohammedan; whereas thoſe who know him beſt believe he has very little, if any Religion. Upon theſe Advices there are two Parties ſprung up in the Divan, the one headed by the Prime Vizir, who is for aſſiſting the Inhabitants of thoſe mountainous Countries, in the Conqueſt of which the Perſians are at preſent employ'd, with Arms, Ammunition and Money, which Expedient may anſwer the End, without running into the immenſe Expence of a War. Oſmin Baſha, heretofore Count Bonneval, is at the Head of the latter, and they reaſon thus; That it is neither for the Intereſt nor the Honour of the Empire to betray a Bear of War, and therefore it would be better to act in earneſt againſt Perſia, to declare Kouli Kan an Uſurper, and to encourage the Nobility of that Empire to throw off the Yoke, reſtore the old Royal Family, or elect a new Prince amongſt themſelves. Some ſhrewd People here believe, that this is the Prime Miniſter's own Project, tho' he ſeems to oppoſe it; and in order to account for this Conduct they ſay, that if the War ſucceeds, it will be referr'd to his Management; and if, on the contrary, Things ſhould go wrong, he will be the better able to excuſe himſelf, ſince he was always (at leaſt in Publick) againſt the War. In the mean time it is agreed to aſſiſt the Nations in the Mountains immediately with Money and Artillery, and Orders have been already ſent for that Purpoſe to the Baſhas on the Frontiers.

Stockholm, Dec. 14. The Deputies appointed to go to Peterſbourg to acquaint the Duke of Holſtein with his Election to the Throne of this Kingdom, ſet out the 8th Inſtant; but as they travel all the Way by Land it will be a conſiderable Time before they arrive at Peterſbourg.

It is pretended that thoſe Deputies are charg'd to offer the Crown of Sweden to the Duke of Holſtein on the following Conditions: 1. That he ſhall conſtantly profeſs the Lutheran Religion. 2. That he ſhall govern according to the fundamental Laws of the Kingdom. 3. That he ſhall come into Sweden to pay Homage to the King and Kingdom.

It is added, that if the Duke accepts theſe Conditions, the Deputies will deliver to him his Majeſty's Letter of Notification; but if, upon their Arrival, they find that his Royal Highneſs has embraced the Greek Religion, they will then deliver him another Letter from the King, importing, that his Majeſty and the Kingdom are very ſorry that his Change of Religion diſables him from correſponding with the Wiſhes of the Sweediſh Nation, that nevertheleſs he flatters himſelf, that in Gratitude for the Good-Will Sweden has ſhewn to his Royal Highneſs, he will employ his good Offices with the Empreſs in order to procure an honourable Peace for this Crown.

Copenhagen, Dec. 17. All our Military Preparations are continued with as much Hurry and no leſs Incertainty than they have been ever ſince the Sweediſh Election. This Inſtant we have the News of a conſiderable Imbarkation for Norway, which will be undertaken immediately, and which ſhews that our Court is quite in earneſt, and that the North is to be again embroil'd.

Florence, Dec. 15. The continual Rains that have lately fallen, have occaſion'd great Inundations in the Country about Rome, and even in that City the Church, call'd the Rotonda, has been for ſome Days under Water. Above 10,000 Peaſants have been forc'd to leave the Country, and to take Refuge in the City, where the Pope cauſes Bread to be diſtributed to them. M. de Gages has demanded Leave of the Pope to quarter his Army in the City of Bologne during the Winter; but the Miniſters of the Queen of Hungary have at the ſame time inſinuated, that in caſe that Favour ſhould be granted to the Spaniards, General Traun would not fail to block up the aforeſaid City to prevent the carrying of Proviſions into it. Upon this Account his Demand has been refuſed, and the General has been obliged to ſend ſome Regiments of the Cavalry to the Caſtle of St. Peter, and to other Places ſituated near Imola. Part of the Infantry is gone to Pianoro, and to other Places towards the Confines of Tuſcany, where they are poſted in ſuch a Manner as if their Deſign was to canton there all the Winter; upon which Account it has been reſolv'd by the Regency of Tuſcany, to reinforce the Garriſon of Firenzuola with another Battalion.

Hamburg, Dec. 18. We are confidently told here, that the King of Pruſſia will have three Armies on Foot next Spring, viz. one in Pruſſia, the ſecond in the March of Brandenbourg, and the other in Pomerania; yet we apprehend that if they ſhould not move out of thoſe Provinces, France need not be very uneaſy about the Matter.

Vienna, Dec. 19. Prince Charles of Lorrain arriv'd here laſt Saturday, at Ten o'Clock at Night, from the Army, with Prince Eſterhaſi.

From the King of Sardinia's Quarters at Montmelian, Dec. 19. A few Days ſince the King receiv'd Advice that the Marquis de la Mina had repair'd to the Infant Don Philip's Army at the Inſtances of the Queen of Spain, in order to judge of the Obſtacles which prevent the Spaniards entering Savoy again, and which have appear'd inſurmountable to the Count de Glimes. Since that General has taken upon him the Command of the Spaniſh Army, he has approached our Camp ſeveral times in order to reconnoitre our Situation; he beats the General every Night, and is actually laying two Bridges over the Iſere, and this with a View to draw our Troops out of their Camp; but we are ſo advantageouſly poſted, that the King has reſolv'd not to ſtir a Foot until he ſees the Enemy attempt the Paſſage of the Iſere in earneſt.

Vienna, Dec. 12. Prince Charles of Lorrain has ſent the Great Duke a Plan, wherein he refers to the Deciſion of his Royal Highneſs and the Council of War, whether the Campaign ſhall be continued during the Winter, or the Army be canton'd in ſuch a manner as to keep the Enemy always in Alarm, and cut off their Proviſions. After ſeveral Reaſons alledged in that Plan, Prince Charles inclines for the latter Part of the Queſtion; and accordingly the Great Duke and the Council of War have decided that the Army ſhall be canton'd. Count Kevenhuller's Martial Temper made him wiſh that the Troops had been allow'd to keep the Field this Winter. Thus none but the Huſſars will be in Action during this Seaſon, unleſs the French and Bavarians, for want of Elbow-Room, ſhould undertake ſomething againſt our Army.

The Court ſeems leſs incin'd than ever to acknowledge the Elector of Bavaria for the Emperor, or to cede him any Part of the Auſtrian Succeſſion, eſpecially ſince the Arrival of a Courier from London within theſe few Days, who has brought Diſpatches of the utmoſt Importance; but what they are, the Publick know not as yet.

Franefort, Dec. 24. It is currently reported here, that the French Court will ſend another Army into Germany next Spring, to make Head againſt the Engliſh and others that are to march from Flanders into the Empire. It is likewiſe given out, that the Emperor will augment his Troops this Winter to 35,000 Men. We hear from Augſbourg, that the French are buying up great Quantities of Proviſions and Forage in that Neighbourhood for their Army in Bavaria.

Dreſden, Dec. 25. The 22d Inſtant an Expreſs arriv'd here from Bohemia, with Advice that Marſhal Belle-Iſle has march'd out of Prague. The Particulars of this Affair are as follow:

For above a Month paſt Marſhal Belle-Iſle had been preparing for the Execution of this Project, which he judg'd might be ſucceſsfully undertaken, when he ſaw that the greateſt Part of Prince Lobkowitz's Troops were on the other Side of the Moldau, and that only one Detachment was left on this Side of that River. The 14th Inſtant the Garriſon receiv'd Orders to be in readineſs to make a general Sally upon the Enemy. The next Day the Regiments deſign'd for this Service receiv'd Orders to provide themſelves with a certain Quantity of Proviſions: The ſame Day all the Horſes in the City were taken up. The 16th thoſe Horſes were diſtributed to the Troops for which they were deſtin'd. The real Deſign was not declar'd 'till the 17th at Noon, and at the ſame time it was agreed that they ſhould begin to march the next Morning at Break of Day. All Things being ſettled, and a ſufficient Quantity of Ammunition diſtributed to the Troops, Marſhal Belle-Iſle march'd out of Prague the 18th, at Four o'Clock in the Morning, with a Body of 10,000 Men, among whom there were 1600 Horſe. The ſame Day he paſs'd the Watta and advanced to Horſchowitz. The 19th he forced the Poſt that the Auſtrians had there, which was defended by 1500 Men. Prince Lobkowitz, who was then with his Troops on the other Side of the Moldau, being inform'd of the French General's March, immediately detach'd General Nadaſti with the Hungarian Cavalry, who made ſuch Haſte that they paſs'd the Moldau the 19th and overtook the French the ſame Day near Lochowitz, where, as we hear, there was a briſk Action between both Parties, but know nothing of the Particulars of it; and there is no News of the French General's March ſince the 20th in the Morning, when he turn'd towards Czitaim, which is in the Route to Pilſen and not to Egra. Our Advices concerning Prince Lobkowitz come down to the 20th, and ſay that he was to have paſs'd the Moldau the 19th, in order to ſuſtain General Nadaſti and follow the French. Marſhal Belle-Iſle left 5 or 6000 Men in Prague, who have Proviſions for three Months.

Liſbon, Dec. 1. A Ship is arriv'd from Goa with Letters adviſing that the Indians having broke the Truce they had concluded with the Portugueze, the Marquis de Louriſſal, new Vice-Roy of Goa, march'd againſt them with as many Troops as he could aſſemble, and drove them from their beſt Poſts, but could not drive them quite out of the Iſland, becauſe, after garriſoning the Poſts he had taken, he had not Troops enough left to compleat his Work.

Bruſſels, Dec. 27. We have Letters from Luxembourg which ſay, that a Detachment of 500 Men have actually enter'd the Abby of St. Hubert, in order to live there at Diſcretion, until the Abbot pays the 45,000 Florins he owes the Queen of Hungary.

From the Paris Advertiſement, Jan. 2.

Letters from Baſtia, of the 4th of laſt Month, bring Advice, that Major Francheſchi having marched with a Detachment to the Poſts of Ampugnani, in order to oblige the Inhabitants to pay the *Taille*, met with a flat Denial, the People telling him that the Regulation publiſh'd was not conformable to the Demands made by their Deputies. M. Francheſchi being nettled at this Anſwer, and reſolv'd to puniſh them for their Diſobedience, burnt ſome of their Houſes, in order to deter others from imitating their Conduct: But this produced a quite contrary Effect; for the People being enrag'd at this Execution, rung the Alarm-Bell, and made Fires on all the Hills, as a Signal for the other Pieves to come to their Aſſiſtance. M. Francheſchi fearing to be overwhelm'd by Numbers, retir'd to Roſtino with all his Men, not only without executing his Commiſſion, but alſo leaving ſeveral Soldiers dead in the Field. M. Spinola highly blam'd the Conduct of this Officer, and is now endeavouring to appeaſe the People with abundance of fine Promiſes; but it is very much queſtion'd whether he will be able to gain his Ends. All the Iſlanders are in the utmoſt Diſorder, expecting a general Revolt.

From the London Gazette.

Dreſden, Dec. 24. There are now Letters from Prince Lobkowitz himſelf, who ſays, that he came up with the French at Strachnitz, had already taken 600 of them, and had Hopes of cutting off their intended Retreat to Egra, they having ſo much Baggage and Ammunition, that they march'd but four Miles the four firſt Days; what is left at Prague is not certain, tho' it is ſaid not above 1000 Men, beſides the Sick.

Dreſden, Dec. 25. Prince Lobkowitz purſu'd the French himſelf no farther than Strachnitz, but order'd four Regiments of Horſe to accompany them to the Mountain of Buchau, and 5000 Huſſars to harraſs them during their whole Route, which it is thought will be very difficult in the Mountains towards Carlſbadt, eſpecially as we hear that the Auſtrians have already a Detachment at that Place, as alſo at Falckenau and Schluckenwerde, and have alſo order'd the Boors and Huntſmen to defend all the Paſſes and Defiles againſt the French. Many of them however will, it is believ'd, eſcape, unleſs the preſent exceſſive Cold deſtroys them. Prince Lobkowitz is return'd to Prague, and has ſummon'd the Garriſon, from whence an Officer has been with him, but it is not known with what Anſwer.

PLANTATION NEWS.

Providence, Sept. 8. Last Night arriv'd here our Privateer, commanded by Capt. Davidson, with a Prize Schooner, laden with Provisions, &c. and bound for the Havanna, with thirteen Hands on board. Capt. Davidson engaged a Dutch Ship; and the Commander finding he must be taken, escap'd with several Negroes in their Boat: Her Cargo is valued at 22,000 Pieces of Eight. Capt. Davidson was attack'd in the Bay by five Pettiaugers, and had been taken, had he not kill'd several of their Hands in the Engagement.

IRELAND.

Belfast, Dec. 14. On Saturday Night last died of a Pleurisy, in the Barracks of this Town, Kendrick Cope, Esq; Captain of a Company in Col. Battereau's Regiment of Foot, and Son of Robert Cope, Esq; Knight of the Shire for the County of Armagh, and Yesterday his Remains were interr'd in this Church in a genteel Manner, with the usual military Honours.

Dublin-Castle, Dec. 17. Letters Patent are preparing to pass the Great Seal of this Kingdom, containing a Grant from his Majesty unto Nathaniel Clements, Esq; of the Office or Offices of Customer, Collector and Receiver of the Port of Carrickfergus, with the Creeks and Members thereunto belonging, in the room of John Balagnier, Esq; deceas'd.

Dublin, Dec. 18. Tuesday last Mr. James Bray was try'd and found guilty, at the Commission of Oyer and Terminer, for the Murder of his Wife, by laying her on the Fire, and burning her in so cruel a Manner that she died. He was sentenc'd to be executed on Wednesday next.

Mr. Bray, being desirous of a Bedfellow, got one of the Prisoners, confin'd only for his Fees, to lie with him, who in the Night-time robb'd him of twenty Guineas, and after discharging his Fees, thought proper to make his Escape.

LONDON.

We have now had almost a Year of a new Administration: *But what has happen'd in this remarkable Epocha to distinguish it from the Annals of the last?*

The Parliament is not expected to sit long, the *chiefest Business* being transacted; but it is believ'd they will meet very *early* next Winter, to grant *Supplies*, and the other *current Services* of Government, as the *Expences* will be very *extraordinary* this Summer.

Saturday last being Christmas-Day there was a numerous and splendid Appearance at Court to pay their Compliments to his Majesty, when the Knights Companions of the several Orders appear'd in their respective Collars: At Noon his Majesty, with the rest of the Royal Family, went to the Chapel-Royal, and heard a Sermon preach'd by the Rev. Mr. Hayter, Sub-Almoner; after which they receiv'd the Sacrament from the Hands of the Right Rev. Dr. Edmund Gibson, Bishop of London and Dean of the Chapel, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Carlton, Sub-Dean. His Majesty made an Offering at the Altar of a Wedge of Gold, commonly call'd the Byzant. The Sword of State was carried to and from Chapel by his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

The Primate of Ireland has appointed Edmund Hoyle, Esq; Register of the Prerogative Court, a Place of 600 l. a Year Profit.

On Week Nicholas Morse, Esq; was appointed by the Court of Director of the India Company Governor of Fort St. George, in the room of Edward Benyan, Esq; who has desir'd to be recall'd from thence.

On Saturday last the Right Hon. the Lord Hume was married at Hampstead to the Widow Laws of Albemarle-street, a very agreeable Lady, of great Fortune, and fine Accomplishments.

Last Week was married, at the Church of St. Matthew, Friday-Street, by the Rev. Mr. Bourne, Walter Henshaw, Esq; of Palmer's-Green, near Southgate, to Miss Harding, one of the Coheiresses of —— Harding, Esq; of Clere-Place, near Farnham in Hampshire; an agreeable young Lady with a handsome Fortune.

A few Days ago John James, of More-Court in the County of Hereford, Esq; was married to Miss Price, only Daughter of John Price, of Knighton in the County of Radnor, Esq; a young Lady of fine Accomplishments and a Fortune of 8000 l.

We hear that Mr. Grave, an eminent Attorney at Law, of Serjeants-Inn, Fleet-street, was last Week married in Sussex to Miss Rogers of Hanover-Square, an agreeable Lady with a Fortune of 10,000 l.

By Letters from Virginia, by way of Bristol, dated Nov. 5. there is Advice of the Death of the following Gentlemen, viz. of the Hon. William Randolph, Esq; one of his Majesty's Council; of Mr. Gooch, the only Son of the Governor, who was Naval Officer of York River; and of Capt. Heysham Randolph.

Robert Arbuthnot, Esq; Receiver-General for the Island of Antigua, died some Time since on his Voyage from the said Island to London.

A few Days since died, at Deal in Kent, the Rev. Mr. Goodall, Rector of Bentham, in the County of York and Diocese of Chester; which Living, being upwards of 200 l. a Year, is in the Gift of John Parker, Esq;

Last Monday Morning at Seven o'Clock died, at his Seat at Tibbald's Park, the Right Hon. the Lord Viscount Say and Seale. He is succeeded in his Honour and Estate by —— Fiennes, Esq; now Lord Say and Seale.

On Saturday Morning early died Mr. Robert Morgan, a Romish Clergyman, Principal at the Sardinian Embassador's Chapel. He had been robb'd a few Nights ago in Great Russel-Street, and was so frighten'd at the Brutal Behaviour of the Rogues, that he was immediately after taken ill, and never recover'd.

On Saturday last Mr. Hewitt, a Farmer of great Business and Wealth, died suddenly of an Apoplectick Fit, at his House on Small-Berry-Green.

On Saturday Mr. Thompson, of Jermyn-Street, who has a Country-House at Windsor, had the Misfortune to be overturn'd out of his Chaise, as he was going there from London, into a Gravel-Pit near Datchet-Bridge, under the Park-Wall, and his Skull was fractur'd in several Places, and he died directly on the Spot. He had several Places under his Majesty, as Lighter of the Lamps in his Majesty's Palaces, likewise Yeoman of the Silver Scullery, and Yeoman of the Green-Grocery-Office.

Last Sunday Morning died, at his House at Clapton near Hackney, after a lingering Illness, Mr. Cazalet, an eminent French Merchant of this City.

Monday died Mr. Hobson, Partner with Messrs. Hawkins and Raynsford, eminent Brewers at Ratcliff-Cross.

Last Monday Night died Mr. Griggs, Master of the Crown Coffee-House near Guildhall: He formerly kept the White Lion Inn at Kick's End near Barnet.

The same Day died, after a long Illness, Humphry South, Esq; an eminent West-India Merchant, at his House in Billiter-Square.

Tuesday Morning died, at his House in Bartholomew-Close, after a tedious Indisposition, Oliver Edwards, Esq; Master of the Woolt-Pack Brewhouse at Islington: In the Year 1739 he serv'd the Office of High Sheriff for the County of Bedford.

We hear several of the Inhabitants of Covent-Garden have presented a Petition to his Grace the Duke of Bedford, praying that the new-built Huts and Stands in the Garden Square may be pull'd down, being deem'd Nurseries for loose disorderly People; and that his Grace has consented to the same.

By the Irish Packets which arriv'd last Tuesday we have an Account, that Mr. John Waite, late Cashier to the Bank of England, who went off in May 1741, and for whom a Reward of 500 l. was offer'd, is apprehended in Dublin, and committed to Newgate in that City.

One Night last Week, as Mr. Hawitry, a Lapidary was coming thro' King-street, Westminster, he was met by two Fellows, who ask'd him what it was, o'Clock, to which he answer'd, he believ'd it was almost Twelve; Why says one of them, sure you can tell exactly, let us see your *Tatler*, and immediately cut him on the Forehead with a Pistol, then robb'd him, and got clear off.

On Saturday William Brand and Henry Fennell were committed to Newgate by Col. De Veil, for a Street-Robbery in Bridges-Street, Covent-Garden, about One o'Clock in the Morning, upon Mr. William Blacknell, who had a considerable Sum of Money about him, and a Gold Watch, which he preserv'd by the seasonable Assistance of two Gentlemen, who came up as he was in the Hands of three Ruffians, two of which made their Escape, and the third was taken, who discover'd his Accomplices, and Mr. Blacknell's Hatt, which was taken from him at that Time, was found upon Brand.

Last Monday Night one Mary Morgan, who constantly attended the Evening Prayers at Westminster-Abbey, took an Opportunity, while the Candles were putting out, to steal the Common-Prayer-Book with Gold Tassels belonging to the Right Rev. the Bishop of Rochester, Dean of the said Cathedral; but being detected therein she was seiz'd and carry'd before Justice Manley, who committed her to the Gatehouse.

Letters from South Carolina, dated Oct. 19, advise, that Capt. Frankland, in his Majesty's Ship the Rose, has taken a large Bermuda Sloop, which was taken some time ago from Capt. Seth Harvey, and since by the Spaniards converted into a Privateer, and has taken several Vessels belonging to that Province. The Rose Man of War has also taken a Dutch Snow, that had been trading with the Spaniards, and had carried them Arms; she had on board 5000 Dollars, and a valuable Cargo of Dry Goods.

The last Letters from Jamaica advise, that the Men of War and Transports with the Forces on board, that arriv'd at that Island from England, in order to settle on an Island in the Bay of Honduras, were sail'd from thence, in order to make such Settlement.

Capt. Wimble, in the Revenge Privateer, arriv'd at Carolina the 7th of October, to refit, having receiv'd great Damage in an Engagement with a Privateer of twelve Carriage and fourteen Swivel Guns, and eighty Men, belonging to Porto Rico. Capt. Wimble at that Time had only eighteen Men and a Boy on board, besides ten Spaniards, who rose upon the Ship's Crew during the Engagement.

The Revenge Man of War, Capt. Draper, in his Passage from before Barracoa for Jamaica, took off Cape Francois a Spanish Schooner, with forty Tons of Cocoa, and other rich Goods, besides Jewels, valued at 12,000 Pieces of Eight.

The Mary Le Cornu, and the Rachel, Grey, both from Jamaica for New England, are taken by the Spaniards and carry'd into Cuba.

Last Monday came Advice, that the L'Avanturier, a very rich Ship from La Vera Cruz, was safe arriv'd in the Bay of Cadiz; and that some others were soon expected there. We don't hear that any English Men of War are cruizing in that Bay.

Captain Friend, just arriv'd in the River from Oporto, fell in with a Spanish Privateer about 25 Leagues S. W. from Cape Clear, who bore down upon him under English Colours; but Capt. Friend being upon his Guard, would not suffer him to approach too near, and therefore fir'd at him, as soon as he came within the Reach of his Guns; on which they lower'd their English Colours and hoisted Spanish, and fir'd a Volley of Small Arms; which Captain Friend return'd with his Broadside; then the Privateer fir'd his great Shot, though without Execution; but the English had better Luck, for Capt. Friend immediately order'd his Lower-Deck Guns to be run out, which were loaded with double-headed Shot, one of which cut the Privateer's Mast, and brought the Men in the Top all down on Deck, on which the Spaniard sheer'd off, and let Capt. Friend to proceed on his Voyage.

In the Channel Capt. Friend saw a French Dogger, which he took to be a Privateer, with three Ships in her Company, going under an easy Sail.

Extract of a Letter from Gibraltar, Nov. 26, *O. S.*

'You have by this an Account of the Misfortunes 'that happen'd here lately, viz. Capt. Kelly, of the 'Hargrave, attempted on the 21st Instant to push 'through the Gut, with a light Levant Wind; but 'as it soon came about to Westward, he was forced 'back, with several others: He lay for some Time 'becalm'd, very near the Shoar on the Spanish Side, 'and was attack'd by two Spanish Xebeques, of 60 'Men each; but he beat them off very bravely, notwithstanding they made several Attempts to board 'him; he had on board 20 Marines: As to the 'Number of Men he kill'd we leave it to himself to 'advise you, as he must be the best Judge. He came 'to an Anchor about Five o'Clock that Evening, 'and between Nine and Ten at Night it began to 'blow a perfect Storm at S. W. in which we expected 'he would undoubtedly go ashore; as did the Drake

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'Sloop of War, Capt. Stinger, who is wreck'd to 'Pieces, with ſeveral others, as follows:

'Capt. Wright's Ship and Cargoe loſt, which conſiſted of Stores for the Garriſon; as alſo Capt. Cleland's two Ships.

'Two fine Sloops in the King's Service, belonging 'to Haſwell, alſo loſt.

'A large Settee, that lay as a Store-Ship, with ſe'veral Goods on board, loſt.

'Two fine Xebeques belonging to the King, and ſe'veral old Veſſels that lay in the Mole, loſt.

'A Portugueze Veſſel from Malaga loſt, and moſt 'of the Crew periſh'd; ſhe was bound to Dunkirk, 'with Wine and Fruit.

'Capt. Pridie, in the Carolina Brig belonging to 'Exon, ſtruck, and with great Difficulty was ſav'd, 'and has receiv'd great Damage.

'Capt. Strong of Liverpool, is aſhore; but we 'believe will be got off. A French Veſſel at Anchor 'cut away her Maſts. And moſt of the Portugueze 'Boats are loſt.

From the London Gazette.

Whitehall, Dec. 25. On the 7th Inſtant, in the Latitude of 49: 40. Scilly bearing E. half N. Diſtance 36 Leagues, his Majeſty's Ship the Bridgewater, commanded by Capt. Rogers, fell in with a Spaniſh Privateer at half an Hour paſt Nine o'Clock in the Forenoon, which being to Windward, bore down upon the Bridgewater. Capt. Rogers kept cloſe upon a Wind, under double reeft Topſails and Courſes. At Eleven o'Clock the Privateer hoiſted an Engliſh Enſign, and fir'd a Shot at the Bridgewater; whereupon Capt. Rogers hoiſted a Dutch Enſign, haul'd up his Main-ſail, and back'd his Main-top-ſail; but finding ſoon after that the Privateer made Sail from him, he haul'd down the Dutch Enſign, hoiſted Engliſh Colours, and gave her a Broadſide; upon this the Privateer took down her Engliſh Enſign, hoiſted Spaniſh, and made all poſſible Sail from the Bridgewater, and fir'd her Stern-Chaſe Guns. Capt. Rogers crouded Sail after her, and ply'd her with his Bow-Chaſe Guns till Three in the Afternoon, when he came up with her, and gave her another Broadſide, which ſhe return'd; but Capt. Rogers then finding that ſhe ſhot from him, deſerv'd firing any more till he came cloſe up with her. About Nine, being cloſe under her Lee-Quarter, he gave her another Broadſide, and Small Arms, upon which ſhe call'd for Quarter; and Capt. Rogers has brought her into Plymouth. She is call'd the Santa la Rita, alias El Neptuno, carried 140 Men, with 18 Carriage, and 8 Swivel Guns, and came out of Bilboa a few Days before ſhe was taken.

Whitehall, Dec. 25. The King has been pleaſed to conſtitute and appoint John Mordaunt, Eſq; to be Colonel of his Majeſty's Royal Regiment of Foot of Ireland, whereof Major-General John Armſtrong, deceas'd, was late Colonel; and likewiſe to be Captain of a Company in the ſaid Regiment.

And alſo to conſtitute and appoint James Cholmondeley, Eſq; to be Colonel of his Majeſty's Regiment of Foot, whereof Lord James Cavendiſh, deceas'd, was late Colonel; and likewiſe to be Captain of a Company in the ſaid Regiment.

Whitehall, Dec. 28. The King has been pleas'd to conſtitute and appoint Abraham Hume, Eſq; to be Commiſſary General of Stores, Proviſions and Forage to his Majeſty's Forces in the Auſtrian Netherlands, in the Room of William Burroughs, Eſq; deceas'd.

BANKRUPTS.

William Hull, of St. Mary at Hill, London, Packer.

Robert Robinſon, late of Wigan, in the County Palatine of Lancaſter, Chapman.

Michael Roſhar, of St. Mary le Strand, in the County of Middleſex, Lime Merchant.

William Robinſon, late of the City of Lincoln, Boatman and Chapman.

John Pindlebury, of Princes-Street, near Stocks-Market, London, Merchant.

James Durham, late of London, Chymiſt, but now of Netherton-Hall, near Bewdley, in the County of Worceſter, Wine-Merchant.

John Eſtgate the Elder, late of the City of Chicheſter in the County of Suſſex, Feltmaker and Chapman.

Alexander Simſon, of Oldbury in the County of Salop, Chapman.

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